Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

In or near an area of restricted visibility, whether by day or night, the signals prescribed in this Rule shall be used as follows:

(a) A power-driven vessel making way through the water shall sound at intervals of not more than 2 minutes one prolonged blast.

(b) A power-driven vessel underway but stopped and making no way through the water shall sound at intervals of not more than 2 minutes two prolonged blasts in succession with an interval of about 2 seconds between them.

(c) A vessel not under command, a vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre, a vessel constrained by her draught, a sailing vessel, a vessel engaged in fishing and a vessel engaged in towing or pushing another vessel shall, instead of the signals prescribed in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this Rule, sound at intervals of not more than 2 minutes three blasts in succession, namely one prolonged followed by two short blasts.
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

(d) A vessel engaged in fishing, when at anchor, and a vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre when carrying out her work at anchor, shall instead of the signals prescribed in paragraph (g) of this Rule sound the signal prescribed in paragraph (c) of this Rule.

(e) A vessel towed or if more than one vessel is towed the last vessel of the tow, if manned, shall at intervals of not more than 2 minutes sound four blasts in succession, namely one prolonged followed by three short blasts. When practicable, this signal shall be made immediately after the signal made by the towing vessel.

(f) When a pushing vessel and a vessel being pushed ahead are rigidly connected in a composite unit they shall be regarded as a power-driven vessel and shall give the signals prescribed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule.
(g) A vessel at anchor shall at intervals of not more than one minute ring the bell rapidly for about 5 seconds. In a vessel of 100 metres or more in length the bell shall be sounded in the forepart of the vessel and immediately after the ringing of the bell the gong shall be sounded rapidly for about 5 seconds in the after part of the vessel. A vessel at anchor may in addition sound three blasts in succession, namely one short, one prolonged and one short blast, to give warning of her position and of the possibility of collision to an approaching vessel.

(h) A vessel aground shall give the bell signal and if required the gong signal prescribed in paragraph (g) of this Rule and shall, in addition, give three separate and distinct strokes on the bell immediately before and after the rapid ringing of the bell. A vessel aground may in addition sound an appropriate whistle signal.
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

(i) A vessel of 12 m or more but less than 20 m in length shall not be obliged to give the bell signals prescribed in paragraphs (g) and (h) of this Rule. However, if she does not, she shall make some other efficient sound signal at intervals of not more than 2 minutes.

(j) A vessel of less than 12 metres in length shall not be obliged to give the above-mentioned signals but, if she does not, shall make some other efficient sound signal at intervals of not more than 2 minutes.

(k) A pilot vessel when engaged on pilotage duty may in addition to the signals prescribed in paragraphs (a), (b) or (g) of this Rule sound an identity signal consisting of four short blasts.
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Restricted visibility

Rule 3 (l) gives the definition of restricted visibility: “any condition in which visibility is restricted by fog, mist, falling snow, heavy rainstorms, sandstorms or any other similar causes”. See also Rules 6 and 19
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Restricted visibility

Falling snow
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Restricted visibility

Heavy rain
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Restricted visibility

Sandstorm
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Restricted visibility

Smoke
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

In or near an area of restricted visibility

Fog signal shall be sounded NEAR as well as IN an area of restricted visibility

In an area of restricted visibility
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

In or near an area of restricted visibility

Near an area of restricted visibility
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Propagation of sound

- The propagation of sound may vary considerably according to weather conditions, e.g. the degree of humidity, the direction and speed of the wind
- The direction and distance at which a sound signal is heard is often unreliable
- A sound signal produced on the portside of the vessel may be heard on the starboard side
- The ranges of audibility given in Annex III, Par. (c) are therefore only theoretical
- In practice they are considerably less
- It is thus imperative to continue with all safety measures until risk of collision is over
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Maximum intervals

- The maximum intervals for each fog signal is:
  - 2 minutes for whistle signals
  - 1 minute for bell and gong signals
  - 2 minutes for the effective sound signals for vessels less than 12 metres in length
- Intervals may be shorter; NEVER longer
- Shorter intervals usually depend on local circumstances such as:
  - The number of vessels in the vicinity
  - Whether they are close or far away
- With vessels that seem to be close, a kind of dialogue should be undertaken by means of the fog signals
- Be careful with automatic fog signal apparatus that your fog signals are not given at the same time as the other vessel’s fog signals
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 (a) (f)
- Power-driven vessel making way through the water or pushing vessel and vessel being pushed ahead rigidly connected
- Interval: max. 2 minutes
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 (b)
- Power-driven vessel underway
- Stopped and not making way through the water
- Interval: max. 2 minutes
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

• Rule 35 (c)
• Vessel not under command
• Interval: max. 2 minutes

• Rule 35 (c) (d)
• Vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre or when carrying their work at anchor
• Interval: max. 2 minutes
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 (c)
- Minesweeper
- Interval: max. 2 minutes

- Rule 35 (c)
- Vessel constrained by her draught
- Interval: max. 2 minutes
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 (c)
- Sailing vessel
- Interval: max. 2 min.

- Rule 35 (c) (d)
- Fishing vessel or fishing at anchor
- Interval: max. 2 min.
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 (c)
- Vessel towing or pushing
- Interval: max. 2 min

- Rule 35 (e)
- Last vessel towed if manned
- Interval: max. 2 min
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Remarks

− The fog signal – • • is the letter D (Danger) of the International Code of Signals. The degree of danger is difficult to determine from the fog signal alone

− The fog signal – • • must be given in place of the fog signal – or – – whether making or not making way through the water

− Vessels sounding – • • are usually a greater danger when making way through the water

− These vessels should therefore be followed more closely on the radar and plotted more frequently

− Make adequate use of your AIS and/or VHF to properly assess the situation

− Vessels being pushed ahead (not being part of a composite unit) do not sound any fog signal. Only the pusher sounds the signal – • •

− When the last vessel of a tow is not manned, the towed vessels may not sound any fog signal
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Composite unit  Rule 35 (f)

Pushing units rigidly connected so as to form a composite unit shall sound the same fog signal as power-driven vessels
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 (g)
- Vessel at anchor
- Less than 100 metres
- Interval: max. 1 minute

- Rule 35 (g)
- Vessel at anchor
- 100 metres or more
- Interval: max. 1 minute
A vessel at anchor may in addition sound the letter R (Rule 35 (g))
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Remarks

− On vessels of less than 100 metres at anchor, the bell may be rung anywhere, where the sound will be least obstructed
− Any vessel at anchor may in addition to the bell and gong give the letter R on her whistle
− Vessels at anchor usually ride on one bow anchor. Taking the direction of the current into account, these vessels should always be passed at their stern.
− In vessels of less than 100 metres in length the bell does not give any indication of the stern of the vessel. In vessels of 100 metres or more, these vessels should be passed on the side of the gong
− Do not anchor in a narrow channel or fairway. When anchoring close to a narrow channel or fairway ascertain yourself that the stern of the vessel will not impede the channel or fairway when the vessel is swinging with the tide
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 (h)
- Vessel aground
- Less than 100 metres
- Interval: max. 1 minute

- Rule 35 (h)
- Vessel aground
- 100 metres or more
- Interval: max. 1 minute
Remarks

- Any vessel aground may in addition to the bell and gong sound an appropriate signal on the whistle
- It may not be the letter R. The letter U is suggested: “You are running into danger“
- Vessels aground do not swing with the tide. Therefore, the fog signals give no indication of the side on which they should be passed
- They should always be passed downstream so as to drift away and not towards them with the risk to run aground as well
- The OOW must consequently continuously check the direction of the current and pass these vessels with extreme caution
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

Vessels of 12 m or more but less than 20 m  Rule 35 (i)

When at anchor or aground these vessels shall not be obliged to give the corresponding signals for the larger vessels at anchor or aground. But, if they don’t do so, they shall give another efficient sound signal at intervals of not more than two minutes.
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 j)
- Vessel of less than 12 metres
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

- Rule 35 (k)
- Pilot vessel (additional signal)
## Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To be given by</th>
<th>On</th>
<th>Maximum interval</th>
<th>Sound signal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POWER-DRIVEN VESSEL</strong></td>
<td>whistle</td>
<td>2 min.</td>
<td>1 prolonged blast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) making way through the water</td>
<td>whistle</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 prolonged blasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) not making way through the water</td>
<td>whistle</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 or 2 prolonged blasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) composite unit</td>
<td></td>
<td>(making way or stopped)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL NOT UNDER COMMAND</strong></td>
<td>whistle</td>
<td>2 min.</td>
<td>1 prolonged blast followed by two short blasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL RESTRICTED IN HER ABILITY TO MANOEUVRE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For pilot vessels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL CONSTRAINED BY HER DRAUGHT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 short blasts as an identity signal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAILING VESSEL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL ENGAGED IN FISHING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL ENGAGED IN TOWING OR PUSHING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL BEING TOWED</strong></td>
<td>whistle</td>
<td>2 min.</td>
<td>1 prolonged blast followed by three short blasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL AT ANCHOR</strong></td>
<td>bell</td>
<td>1 min.</td>
<td>ring bell rapidly for 5 sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) less than 100 metres in length</td>
<td>bell and</td>
<td></td>
<td>ring bell rapidly for 5 sec in forepart of vessel and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) 100 metres or more in length</td>
<td>whistle</td>
<td></td>
<td>ring gong rapidly for 5 sec in after part of vessel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL AGROUND</strong></td>
<td>bell</td>
<td>1 min.</td>
<td>ring bell rapidly for 5 sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) less than 100 metres in length</td>
<td>bell and</td>
<td></td>
<td>ring bell rapidly for 5 sec in forepart of vessel and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) 100 metres or more in length</td>
<td>gong</td>
<td></td>
<td>ring gong rapidly for 5 sec in after part of vessel three strokes before and after rapid ringing of bell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL BETWEEN 12 AND 20 METRES IN LENGTH</strong></td>
<td>whistle</td>
<td>2 min.</td>
<td>efficient sound signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VESSEL LESS THAN 12 METRES IN LENGTH</strong></td>
<td>drum, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rule 35 - Sound signals in restricted visibility

General remarks

- On a vessel at anchor or aground always maintain a proper watch on the bridge
- If a vessel approaches too dangerously close sound the letter R or U as appropriate
- Make proper use of your AIS and/or your VHF in case of an approaching danger
- In restricted visibility by day, it is good practice to have your navigation lights on